

DATE ? 1966.

OLD HARLOVIANS CLUB

President: K.L. Dames Esq.

SPORTS ORGANISER:
I Taylor Esq.,
35, Hadley Road,
New Barnet,
Herts.

HON. TREASURER:
I. Taylor Esq.,
35, Hadley Road,
New Barnet,
Herts.

HON. SECRETARY:
A.G. Eastwood Esq.,
23, Knight Street,
Sawbridgeworth,
Herts.

ASSISTANT HON. SECRETARY:
A. Cook Esq.,
118, Hadham Road,
Bishop's Stortford,
Herts.

Dear Member,

It is with great sorrow that I have to open this years News Letter by informing all Old Harlovians of the close of HARLOW COLLEGE. To explain more fully, Mr. Dames' letter dated the 12th November 1964 addressed to Parents of the boys reveals the problems and for this reason I will reiterate a few paragraphs from this letter.

"It is with very great regret, but after long and careful consideration that I have decided that the School must close at the end of the Summer Term 1965.

Private Schools, as you may possibly know, have been passing through a very difficult time in the past few years, and Harlow College is not an exception. Our numbers have dropped considerably, in fact, to a point below that reached at any time since 1936, and consequently our income has fallen in proportion, but at the same time, our salaries are continually rising as are the overhead expenses. Before long, too, extensive repairs to a building that is over 100 years old will be necessary, and such expenses will be beyond the finances of the school.

You may be quite sure that I write this letter with real regret having spent 28 years of my life here, 26 years as Headmaster".

In an attempt to save the School, Mr. Purgavie the Headmaster, called a meeting of the Parents and at this meeting it was decided to create the Harlow College Educational Trust. A steering committee was formed and their first task was to carry out a careful examination of a School at Crofton Grange, Hamels Park, Buntingford. The committee reported favourably and arrangements were commenced to negotiate for the lease and to form a Deed of Trust. The Trustees appointed by the parents would then be responsible for the running and finances of the School. The Steering Committee headed by Mr. Richardson at their own expense, set forth with this mamouth task, which meant hundreds of letters, frequent trips from all parts of the country to Harlow and endless hours of their valuable time. A period of time elapsed whilst negotiations were proceeding and funds were being raised. However in March 1965 all hopes were dashed when the owners of the property ceased negotiations and withdrew their offer of the Lease.

I hope that this Summary of events is sufficient for all Members to realize that every effort was made to save the School.

I expect you are anxious to learn of the future of the Old Harlovians Club. This of course will be a matter for discussion at the A.G.M. and dinner. I urge all Members to make every effort to attend this Meeting, as your Committee would like to know your thoughts on the matter.

Your President and Committee look forward to seeing you in the near future.

With very best wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

A.G. Eastwood
(Hon. Sec.)

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SCHOOL'S ORIGIN

In the 1963 News Letter compiled by our past Secretary, J. Chivers he gave a brief resume of the School's origin and I think now is the time to repeat the details.

The School originally named St. Mary's College opened on the 29th May 1862. It was founded by the then Vicar of Harlow, the Rev. C. Miller to provide superior education for the sons of gentlemen and (when sufficient amounts have been obtained) to train at low charge the sons of missionaries abroad, of clergymen similarly engaged at home, as well as orphan sons of gentlemen who have been reduced in circumstances.

It was reported in a three-column local paper account of the opening that the sum of £3,500 had been raised by means of a loan from a building society, to be repaid at £440 a year.

The whole estimated cost of the School, including a chapel, was £13,000. When the School opened the eastern wing had been built, together with half of the northern annexe.

When completed, the whole will form a quadrangle, the front being lower by two stories than the rest. At the eastern end it is intended to erect a chapel, in similar style and architecture, for the sole use of students', says the report.

A more picturesque spot could hardly have been selected in the country. The Cambridge line of the Eastern Counties Railway being visible for some distance, while a little to the east stands the Harlowbury Chapel.

'Harlow was very gay on the day of the opening', it goes on. There was communion at St. John's Church at 7 a.m. with a large congregation and a large body of clergy. The service was performed in Gregorian chant and was conducted by the Rt. Rev. A.B. Forbes, Bishop of Brechin. It was followed by a procession into the college.

A party was held in the afternoon, presided over by 'the president', the Rev. C.J. Goulden, who must have been the first headmaster.

The next few years in the history of the School are not so well documented. A photograph in the School hall shows the Rev. L.B. Towne, who was headmaster, possibly succeeding Mr. Goulden.

One thing which didn't happen was the completion of the building according to the original plan. The front and the chapel have never been built.

Mr. Towne left the School and became Vicar of St. John's. Like Mr. Goulden, he was very High Church, and services at St. John's at the beginning of the century were conducted mostly in Latin and incense was used.

The great days of the School, which kept the title of St. Mary's College until fairly recent times, came during the headmastership of Mr. E.P. Horsey. He took over in 1904 and remained until 1935.

'Under his leadership the College prospered and became one of the best-known scholastic establishments in the area, pupils attending from all over the world'.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Old Harlovian,

The School is no more, but the O.H. Club still flourishes and, I hope, will continue to do so for many a long year. It is up to you to see that it does, and you have a good committee to lead you. One Annual Dinner, at least, will be arranged, and for the rest it will be a matter of our keeping in touch with one another, and this we can do by means of the News Letters, which can only be continued if you give the Secretary plenty of information that will interest others, and, above all, keep him posted with regard to any change of address.

First of all will you please let him know whether you wish to continue keeping in touch with the Club or would prefer to drop out and have your name removed from the mailing list. If this is done a great deal of postage, and needless effort, will be saved, but I do hope that the majority of members will remain with us.

288 copies of this letter are being sent off to those whose whereabouts are accurately known, but 110 members, at least, are unaccounted for. If a reply is not received we shall take it for granted that that Member wishes his name to be removed from the book.

CUPS. I have in my keeping all the School Cups, House and Individual, and I shall be grateful if the donors will give me instructions. I would suggest that if they wish the Cups to be returned, and they are at any time in the Harlow district, they give me a ring, come and have a drink and collect the Cups. If they prefer not to take them back I would suggest that they be handed to those whose names appear on them as winners: there are one or two who have won three times in succession.

The names of the donors are as follows:- Foster, Huntington, Inskip, Power, Carruthers, Barry Clark, Baldwin, Hayworth, Riddiford, Sheild,

Sutherland, Inman, Graham, Burrows, White, Bodger, Streeter, Ball, Eagle, Payne, Summers, Weare, Ansell, Seward, Johns, Skinner, Wallis, Oliver, Forster Stephenson, Thomas, Bellingham and Dixon.

Do please respond: they are rather a lot to clean!

If you want to find "Little Bays", cross straight over the road from the bottom of the Headmaster's Drive. You will be welcome.

All the very best to you,

Yours sincerely,

K.L. Dames
(President)

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ANNUAL DINNER & GENERAL MEETING

This year's annual function was held at the Painted Lady where a very enjoyable dinner was had by all 45 Old Harlovians, and followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Once again the chair was taken by our President, Mr. K.L. Dames, the general procedure of reading the minutes were executed and these were passed unanimously. Following this, Mr. Dames spoke to the members present of the close of Harlow College. He regretted having to take this decision, but added that the number of boys had fallen from 200 to 150 and at the same time staff salaries had risen. Extensive repairs on the school were now required, the cost of which would be beyond the finances of the school. With regard to the future of the Old Harlovians, Mr. Dames hoped that this would continue for at least 30 to 40 years.

The Secretary reported that the events arranged by the Committee which had taken place were the raffle on Sports day, which had raised £11.10.0d. net, a fairly successful Barbecue at the school at the end of Sports day despite torrential rain. A buffet Dance also took place, but this was attended by only 60 old boys and friends. The Secretary felt that the future activities of the Club would now have to be restricted to the A.G.M. and Dinner in view of the close of the school, but the feeling of members present was that this matter should be left until the school had actually closed at the end of the Summer Term.

The Treasurer's report showed a healthy balance of £159. 18. 11d with an excess of income over expenditure of £5. 12. 2d.

The Sports Secretary reported that there had been one football match with the score Old Boys 8 against the school 12.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1965/66

President K.L. Dames Esq.
Vice Presidents C. Barker - G. Clark - S. Porcher - J. Jones
J. Chivers - M. Clayden - D. Coleman - D. Palmer.
Hon. Secretary A.G. Eastwood
Assistant Secretary A.A. Cook
Hon. Treasurer I.J. Taylor
Sports Secretary I.J. Taylor
Committee I. Loader - R. Minall - P. Balaam - J. Fordham
C. Porcher - R. Collins - J. Foulds - R. Payze
G. Birch.

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REVIEW OF 1964/65 AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Since the A.G.M. no events have taken place. The matter of future activities of the Club will be discussed at the A.G.M. and Dinner on March 5th 1966. Please make a special effort to attend this year as this meeting will give you an opportunity to state any views you may have for the future of the Club. Perhaps you would like the Annual Dinner to take place in London. The A.G.M. and Dinner this year is at the Railway Hotel, Bishop's Stortford, commencing 6.30 p.m. for dinner at 7.00 p.m. Please complete the enclosed form for application of tickets which are 10/- each this year as the club are subsidising the dinner by 7/- per ticket. The form must be returned to me by the 1st March for catering purposes.

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GENERAL NEWS

Ties and Squares

These are available from the Secretary at the cost of 12/- for the ties and the Squares are now half price at 12/-.